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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 UPW-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02

INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-11 RSR-01 /106 W

006885

R 110835Z SEP 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9835
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOMPENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Vogel DATE 1/24/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 14643

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: KY REVISES AUGUST 23 PROPOSAL

REF: SAIGON 13510

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT: IN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED SEPTEMBER 10, VICE PRESIDENT KY PROPOSED THAT PRESIDENT THIEU RESIGN AND THAT KY HIMSELF ORGANIZE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN WHICH HE PROMISED HE WOULD NOT BE A CANDIDATE. KY STATED THAT HE WOULD INVITE VARIOUS PERSONAGES WITH PRESTIGE IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND POLITICAL PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF ORGANIZING THE ELECTIONS, KY FURTHER PROMISED TO ABANDON ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE EVENT HIS PROPOSAL WERE ACCEPTED AND HE HIMSELF ORGANIZED THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. KY FIRST TENTATIVELY SURFACED HIS SECOND PROPOSAL IN A MEETING SEPTEMBER 7 WITH LOCAL NEWSPAPER EDITORS. PUBLIC REACTIONS FROM THE PRESIDENCY PREDICTABLY HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE. ON SEPTEMBER 11, SEMI-OFFICIAL CHINH LUAN CARRIES REMRKS ATTRIBUTED TO UNNAMED MEMBERS OF THIEU'S STAFF WHICH BELITTLE KY'S PROPOSAL AS A MEANS TO DESTROY THE ELECTION OR AS A

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PRETEXT TO CONSOLIDATE HIS PERSONAL POWER ONCE THIEU HAS RESIGNED. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT. EMBASSY TRANSLATION VICE-PRESIDENT NGUYEN-CAO-KY'S ADDRESS TO ALL COMPATRIOTS AND BROTHERS-IN ARM IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM.

DEAR COMPATRIOTS AND BROTHERS-IN-ARM.
I ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 23, 1971 THAT I WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE OCTOBER 3 PRESIDENTIAL RACE, BECAUSE I NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SO MANY FRAUDULENT MANEUVERS, VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTS, THAT THE CONTEST WAS RENDERED ABSOLUTELY MEANINGLESS.

3. ON THIS OCCASON I PROPOSED TO PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU THAT HE RESIGN TOGETHER WITH ME, AND LET THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UPPER HOUSE ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY FOR THREE MONTHS AND ORGANIZE ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. THIS PROPOSAL WAS AIMED AT PREVENTING THE NATION FROM FALLING INTO A STALEMATE - AND DISTRUBANCES.

4. BUT MY PROPOSAL DID NOT MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT'S AGREEMENT. IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1971, THE PRESIDENT PUBLICLY REJECTED IT, AND ANNOUNCED HIS DETERMINATION TO RUN UNOPPOSED.

5. EVERY FRAUD IN THE ELECTION IS OF A NATURE THE DISTORTS THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE, AND THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE. TO MAKE A ONE-MAN RACE IS EVEN MORE UNACCEPTABLE, AS IT MEANS NOTHING MORE THAN A DEPRIVATION OF THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

THE RESULT IS THAT THE DANGEROUS IMPASSE IS NOT SOLVED BUT TO THE CONTRARY ONLY INCREASES. AT PRESENT, DISCONTENT AND EXASPERATION ARE PREVAILING AMONG THE MASSES. MANY OMENS OF DISROEMDERS ARE SMOULDERING. THERE IS A VERY CLEAR PROSPECT OF UNSTABILITY IN NATIONAL LIFE.

7. CONSIDERING THE SITUATION, IN THE CAPACITY OF A CITIZEN CONSCIOUS OF HIS DUTY VIS-A-VIS THE COUNTRY AND OF A VICE PRESIDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE REGIME, TODAY. I HAVE THE HONOR OF EXPOSING A NEW PROPOSAL TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE PEOPLE.

8. THIS TIME, I SUGGEST THAT ONLY THE PRESIDENT RESIGN AND, IN CONFORMITY WITH ARTICLE 56, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION. I, IN MY CAPACITY AS VICE PRESIDENT WILL REPLACE HIM TO ORGANIZE THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT IN WHICH I WILL NOT PARTICIPATE.

9. THE PRESIDENT HAS TURNED DOWN MY PREVIOUS SUGGESTION.
(MORE)
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BECAUSE HE FEARS THAT WHILE TRANSFERRING PRESIDENTIAL POWERS TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UPPER HOUSE -- A CIVILIAN-- THE NATION WOULD BE IN A "POLITICAL VACUUM AND A CHAOTIC" SITUATION. WITH THIS NEW PROPOSAL, SINCE I AM FROM THE ARMED FORCES, AND HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNING THE COUNTRY DURING CRITICAL TIMES, I HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE PEOPLE MAY BE ASSURED THAT THE CONTINUATION OF LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL STABILITY WILL BE GUARANTEED.

10. LET ME ADD THAT, THROUGH THE PREVIOUS AND PRESENT PROPOSALS, MY SOLE AIM IS TO EFFECT A FREE AND HONEST ELECTION. I CONCEIVE THIS AS A PREREQUISITE TO PRESERVE THE FUTURE OF OUR FATHERLAND; SINCE ONLY A FREE AND HONEST ELECTION CAN FAITHFULLY REFLECT THE PEOPLE'S WILL, ENSURE FULL PRESTIGE TO THE LEADER, AND CREATE A STABLE POSITION FOR THE COUNTRY IN THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

11. AS TO THIS NEW PROPOSAL, BY REJECTING THE INTENTION TO BE A CANDIDATE IN CASE THE PORPOSAL IS APPROVED, I HOPE TO PLAY AN IMPARTIAL ROLE IN THE ORGANIZATION OF TH ELECTION. I CONSIDER IT (THIS STEP) AS A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE

RESOLUTION OF THE DANGEROUS DEADLOCK IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, AND TO THE CREATION OF A STRONG AND DURABLE BASIS FOR THE COUNTRY. WITH THAT THOUGHT, I SOLEMNLY PROMISE TO THE PEOPLE AND GUARANTEE TO THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ABSOLUTE RIGHTEOUSNESS, FREEDOM AND HONESTY IN THE ELECTION WHICH I WOULD BE CHARGED TO ORGANIZE. BESIDES, TO REACH PERFECTION, I WOULD INVITE THE PERSONALITIES WHO HAVE PRESTIGE IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, IN RELIGIONS, AND BELONGING TO POLITICAL PARTIES, TO TAKE PART IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTION.

12. I ASSERT THAT AFTER ACCOMPLISHING THAT ROLE, I WOULD LEAVE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TO ACCEPT THE LIFE OF AN ORDINARY CITIZEN BECAUSE I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT AFTER A FREE AND HONEST ELECTION, YOUR COUNTRY WOULD HAVE HAD A SOLID BASIS TO EXIST, DEVELOP AND PROGRESS. THANK YOU. END TEXT.
BUNKER